

REMARKS

This application has been reconsidered in light of the Office Action dated June 1, 2005, and the references cited therein. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments.

For convenience of review the following paragraphs correspond to those set forth in the Office Action dated June 1, 2005:

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. In claim 10, the term “oversize” is confusing because it is not clear as to which aspect of the first and second valve disc, as well as the end plug, is “oversize”. There is also no frame of reference for the term; oversize relative to what? Finally, it is not clear how a valve disc could be oversize and yet remain slidable. The term doesn’t really have any meaning within the context of the claim.

Accordingly, applicant has canceled Claims 10-13 in order to obviate the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection of Claims 10-13 in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 10, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maddalozzo ‘709 and Dudash ‘407. Claim 10 is not limited to valves in automatic transmissions. Maddalozzo shows a plug 33 with a groove and O-ring, as well as a first valve disc 18 with stem portion 35, and a second valve disc 27. Dudash shows a plug 220 with O-ring 225 a second valve disc 205 on stem portion 190 of first valve disc 60. Either of these valves could be used in the valve body of an automatic transmission.

The examiner takes Official Notice that any claimed subject matter that is not specifically addressed in the rejection of the claims is old and well known to those of ordinary skill in this art. See MPEP 2144.03

Accordingly, it is reiterated that applicant has canceled Claims 10-13 in the application to in order to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as well.

Claims Allowed

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Claims 1-9 in the present case are allowable over the prior art of record for the reasons set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action. The following paragraphs setting forth the basis for allowance of Claims 1-9 in the application correspond to those set forth in the Office Action dated June 1, 2005:

Claims 1-9 are allowable over the prior art of record. The claims are allowable because the prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed combination of an improved solenoid switch valve assembly for use in combination with a valve body of an automatic transmission, said solenoid switch valve assembly regulating the flow of automatic transmission fluid to a low/reverse apply circuit in a first position thereof and, alternatively, to a lock-up apply circuit in a second position thereof, said solenoid switch valve assembly including a solenoid switch valve and a pair of valve discs arranged in end-to-end relation for reciprocating movement within said valve body in fluid communication with said circuits, wherein the improvement comprises: a tandem disc set wherein a mating pair of oversize valve discs are interlocked in sliding engagement to permit axial shifting movement of said discs relative to one another and reciprocating movement of said discs as a unit within said valve bore; or: a method of improving hydraulic control of a torque converter within an automatic transmission system, wherein said transmission system includes an original equipment solenoid switch valve assembly within a valve body thereof for regulating the flow of automatic transmission fluid to a low/reverse apply circuit and, alternatively, to a lock-up apply circuit within said system, said solenoid switch valve assembly including a solenoid switch valve member and a pair of switch valve discs arranged in end-to-end relation for reciprocating movement within a valve bore in said valve body in fluid communication with said circuits, said method comprising the steps of: removing said original equipment solenoid switch valve assembly from said valve bore; inspecting said valve bore for excessive wear; providing a replacement solenoid switch valve assembly including a tandem disc set having interlocking valve discs imparted with axial shifting movement relative to each other; and installing said replacement solenoid switch valve assembly including said tandem disc set into said valve bore.

No particular single feature of the claim renders the claim as a whole patentable. Only the claim taken as a whole combination is deemed new and unobvious.

For all the reasons given above, applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in full condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections recited in the Office Action dated June 1, 2005 is requested. If any outstanding questions remain, a telephone call from the Examiner to the undersigned would be welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

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